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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade,
Environment and Development
Third session
Geneva, 6 November 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Environment, international competitiveness and development: lessons from empirical studies

3. Newly emerging environmental policies with a possible trade impact: a preliminary discussion

4. Other business

5. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its third and final session to the Trade and Development Board in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Group's terms of reference.

GE.95-53290

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above was approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its second session.

The Working Group will have available five working days from 6 to 10 November 1995. At the 1st meeting, on 6 November 1995, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the session will be primarily devoted to items 2 and 3 of the agenda. It is suggested that, apart from the opening and closing plenary meetings, the Working Group should consider items 2 and 3 in an informal setting.

Item 2: Environment, international competitiveness and development: lessons from empirical studies

The secretariat's report on "The policy debate on trade, environment, and development" (TD/B/WG.6/10) builds on the conclusions of TD/B/WG.6/6 and draws from the Chairman's summary at the second session. The report clarifies some of the conceptual issues surrounding discussions on competitiveness. It also explores the implications of competitiveness issues for environmental policies in developed countries, and addresses the impact of environmental policies in the developed countries on the export competitiveness of developing countries. Following from the second session of the Working Group, the report examines the significance of scale and sectoral factors in explaining the vulnerability of exports from developing countries to the environmental policies of developed countries. The trade and competitiveness effects of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the Basel Convention) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on developing countries are examined with a view to identifying positive measures that could be adopted to take account of development concerns in the interface of trade and environment in this and other contexts. In addition, some synthesis reports of the empirical studies are being issued separately as TD/B/WG.6 miscellaneous papers in English only.

Members of the Working Group are requested to hand in national presentations by 5 p.m. on Monday, 6 November at the latest so that they can be included in the informal documents which will be issued by the secretariat on the following day.

Item 3: Newly emerging environmental policies with a possible trade impact: a preliminary discussion

The secretariat's report on "Newly emerging environmental policies with a possible trade impact: a preliminary discussion" (TD/B/WG.6/9) describes emerging environmental policy instruments with a view to analysing their potential effects on trade, in particular exports from developing countries. The report focuses on instruments such as extended producer's responsibility, recycled content requirements, product taxes and border tax adjustments, voluntary industry agreements, information-based instruments and public sector purchasing. It also analyses environmental management systems (EMS), such as

the ISO-14000 series, and their possible effects on trade from developing countries. In each case the report identified issues for discussion.

The discussions of the Working Group may help Governments to identify which of these newly emerging environmental policy instruments could be subject to further requirements on transparency, including notification provisions. The report also identifies some principles and proposals which could be taken into account in the design and implementation of environmental policies and instruments so as to avoid or mitigate adverse trade effects, in particular on developing countries.

Item 4: Other business

Item 5: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its third and final session to the Trade and Development Board in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Group's terms of reference.

The report of the Working Group on its third and final session will be considered by the Trade and Development Board, at its eighteenth special session in December 1995.

III. BUREAU OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP

Chairman:	Mr. B. Elblom	(Finland)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. S.Djajadiningrat	(Indonesia)
	Mrs. R. Mrabet	(Tunisia)
	Mr. G. Thielen Graterol	(Venezuela)
	Mr. B. Diekmann	(Germany)
	Mr. Y. Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Mr. B. Alipour	(Islamic Republic of Iran)